

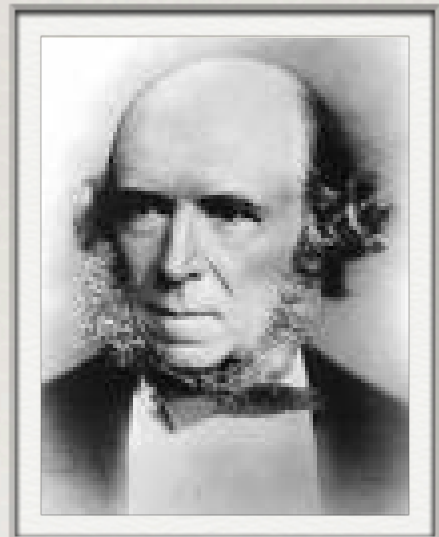
The Origins of Sociology





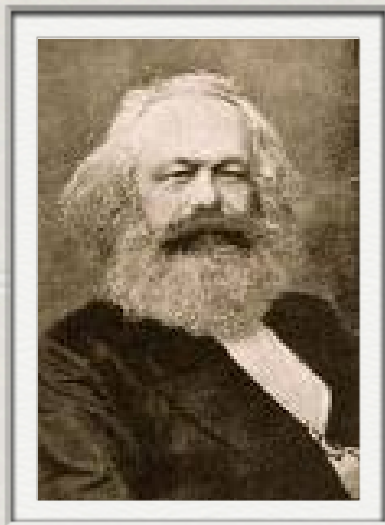
AUGUST COMTE
(1798-1857)

Gave sociology its name and is considered the founder (*logos*-study and *socius*-being with others or companion)
Applied the scientific method to the social world - called **positivism** - after the French Revolution he began to question the social world and what lead to social order. He did not use research but used informal observations and his conclusions have been abandoned - he did want to use his findings for social reform



HERBERT SPENCER
(1820-1903)

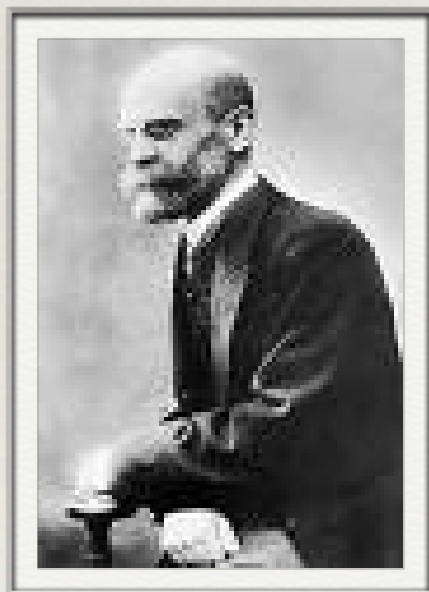
Called the second founder (English) of sociology and disagreed with Comte about its uses for social reform.
He believed that society evolved from barbarian to more civilized - over time “fittest” survive and helping the weak is impacting nature = **Social Darwinism**
Ideas offended many (except for wealthy industrialists)
Did not conduct research - only developed his ideas



KARL MARX (1818-1883)

Like Comte, he believed that sociology should work to help society. German, but worked in England during the industrial revolution and did not consider himself a sociologist.

Believed that **class conflict** drove society - **bourgeoisie** (capitalists) were in conflict with the **proletariat** (workers) - will end with revolution by the workers and class is eliminated - not communism



EMILE DURKHEIM
(1858-1917)

Goal was to get sociology recognized as a true and separate academic discipline (instead part of history and econ.) & got the first academic appointment in sociology at the Univ. of Bordeaux in 1887.

Goal - to show how social forces affect people's behavior - used extensive research (topic=suicide by country) - found Protestant (unmarried) men = higher rate = concluded that social factors impact suicide

Social Integration - the degree to which people are tied to their social group - Protestantism = freedom and no ties makes suicide more common

His work is still quoted - Central principle = *Human behavior cannot be understood only in individualistic terms; we must always examine the social forces that affect people's lives.*

Stressed **social facts** = patterns of behavior that characterize a social group



MAX WEBER (1864-1920)

German sociologist and contemporary of Durkheim and, he is considered one of the most influential of all sociologists.

Disagreed with Marx and said not economics, but religion drove society.

Catholics were traditional and Protestants encouraged change - they looked for signs of going to heaven (money - so saved = surplus = capitalism) called the *Protestant ethic*. Called the readiness to invest for more money = *spirit of capitalism*. Controversial then and today.

Also said sociology should be **value free**. - beliefs should not affect research = **objectivity** - today research needs to be replicated

Stressed **Verstehen** (German word - “to understand” or “grasp by insight”) - the best way to interpret human behavior is to “have been there” - look for **subjective meanings** (how people interpret their situation in life)



HARRIET MARTINEAU
(1802-1876)

Born to wealth in England - violated the social norm of women to write about social life in Britain and the U.S..

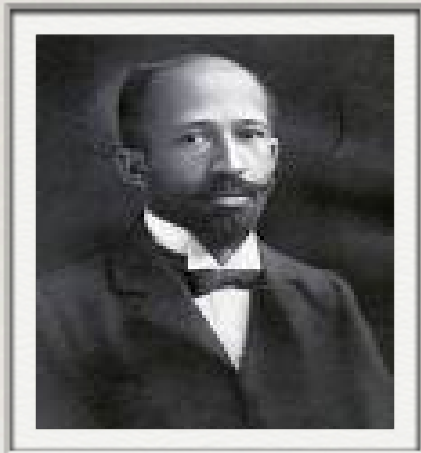
Published *Society in America* (pg. 17) - and reported on custom, tradition, race gender, religion...

Her research was initially ignored, but has gained in popularity.



JANE ADDAMS (1860-1935)

Social reformer and founder of the Hull-House in 1889. Used the house to help the urban poor in Chicago. Sociologists from the University of Chicago (one of the first American Universities, along with Univ. of Kansas and Univ. of Atlanta, to embrace sociology) visited and studied life at Hull-House. Her work shed light on immigrants and urban poor and resulted in new laws and a Nobel Prize in 1931



W.E.B. DUBOIS (1868-1963)

Degree from Fisk and was the first Af. Am. to earn a doctorate at Harvard. While in studies abroad he heard lectures by Weber. Studied relationships between whites and blacks and racism in the United States.

The Souls of Black Folk (1903) (pg. 20) - discussed race relations.

Founded the NAACP - eventually embraced Marx and moved to Ghana at age 93.

Research in Sociology



Social Research

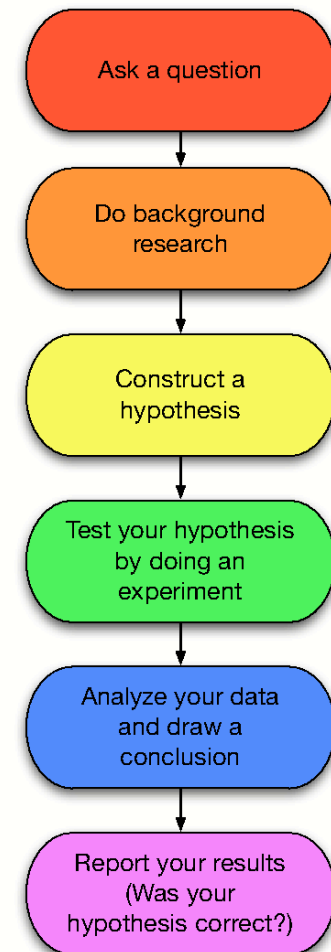
- ✿ *Values/value-free research*
- ✿ *Importance of replication and the problem of replication*
- ✿ *Purpose of the research:*
 - ✿ *help or just for knowledge?*
- ✿ *Weber and Verstehen:*
 - ✿ *must have insight into someone's situation: see the world from a different point of view*
- ✿ *Durkehim and social facts:*
 - ✿ *a group's pattern of behavior*
 - ✿ *Verstehen and social facts fit together, because you understand why people behave from their own point of view*



Social Science and the Scientific method

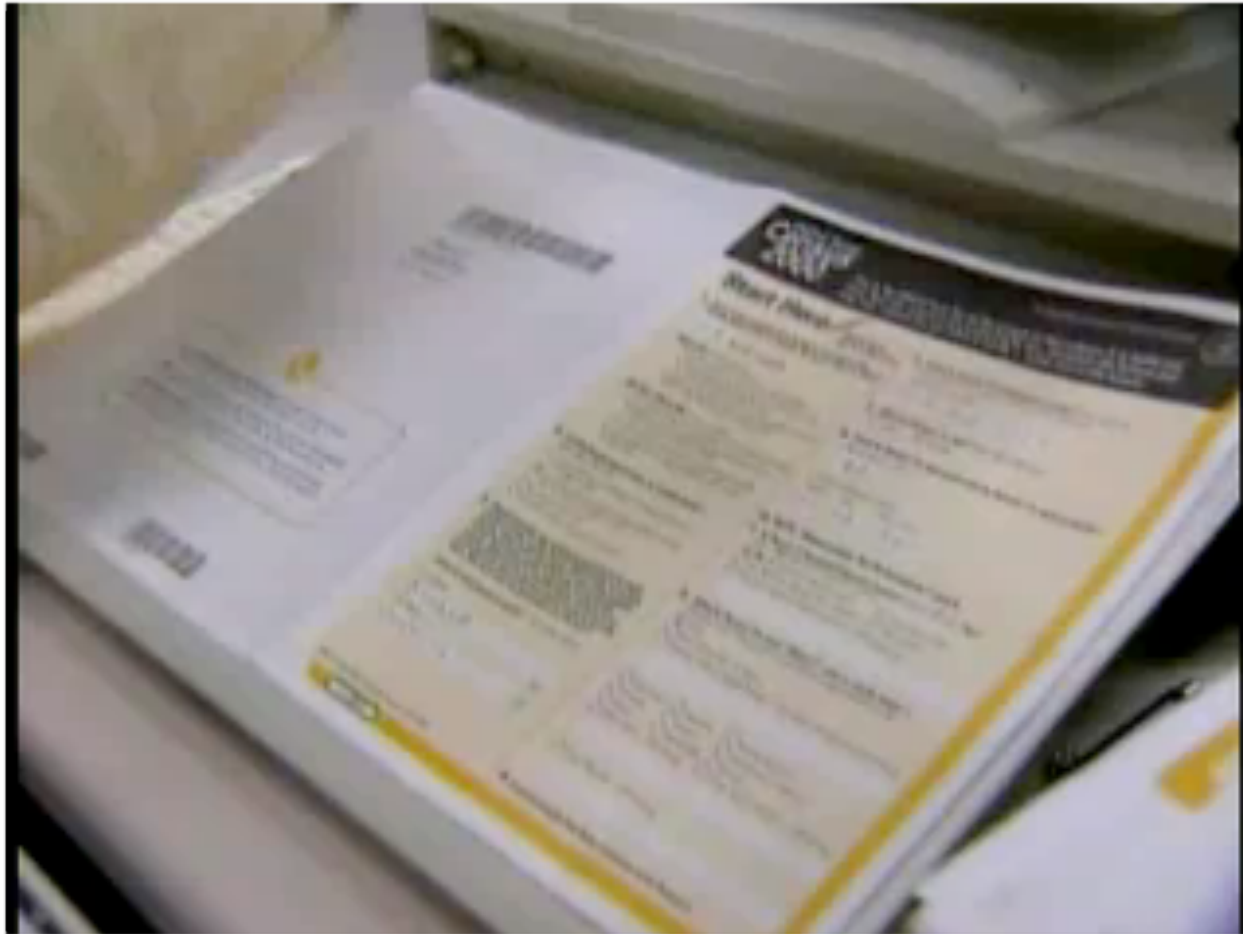
- ★ *Science: Application of systematic methods to obtain knowledge; the knowledge obtained these methods*
- ★ *Purpose: Explain and predict social behaviors by controlled, repeated, and replicable observations*
- ★ *Sociologists can then make generalizations, or a general statement about how society works and human behave*
- ★ *Methods of study and data gathering:*
 - ★ *Survey*
 - ★ *Research*
 - ★ *Experiments*
 - ★ *Participant observation*

The Scientific Method





Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research



Common Sense Vs. Science:

Which one really explains society?

- ✿ *When subjected to scientific study, common sense knowledge, (things everyone “knows are true”), is often found to be false*
- ✿ *Sociology as a Science: Rapid changes in society challenged common sense knowledge*
- ✿ *Do people work together in society, or is it a constant clash?*
- ✿ *Is society one massive system or smaller symbolic parts?*

